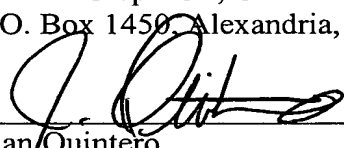


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PATENT

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Examiner: To be assigned)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.